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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/768,872	01/23/2001	Rina Aharoni	60772-PCT-US/JPW/GJG/CSN	3801

7590 12/05/2006

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EXAMINER

VANDERVEGT, FRANCOIS P

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1644

DATE MAILED: 12/05/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/768,872

Applicant(s)

AHARONI ET AL.

Examiner

F. Pierre VanderVegt

Art Unit

1644

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 September 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 16, 19, 20, 32-38 and 157-165 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 34-38 and 157-165 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 16, 19, 20, 32 and 33 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

This application is a continuation of PCT Application Serial Number PCT/US99/16747, which claims the benefit of the filing date of provisional application 60/093,859, and claims the benefit of the filing date of provisional application 60/101,825, and claims the benefit of the filing date of provisional application 60/102,960, claims the benefit of the filing date of provisional application 60/106,350, and claims the benefit of the filing date of provisional application 60/108,184.

Claims 1-15, 17, 18, 21-31 and 39-156 have been canceled.

Claims 16, 19-20, 32-38 and 157-165 are currently pending.

Claims 157-165 stand as withdrawn, as they are not drawn to the same invention as that of Group I, as elected by Applicant with traverse in the paper filed June 6, 2002.

Claims 34-38 have been amended to be dependent upon the method of claim 157 and are no longer drawn to the elected invention. Accordingly, **claims 34-38 are withdrawn**.

Claims 16, 19-20 and 32-33 are the subject of examination in the present Office Action.

In view of Applicant's amendment filed September 11, 2006 no outstanding ground of rejection is maintained.

The following NEW GROUND of rejection has been necessitated by Applicant's amendment.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

1. Claims 16, 19, 20 and 32-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, because the specification, while being enabling for a pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and terpolymers of randomly polymerized tyrosine, alanine and lysine, does not reasonably provide enablement for the recitation of a pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and **a therapeutically effective amount** of terpolymers of randomly polymerized tyrosine, alanine and lysine. The specification does not enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to use the invention commensurate in scope with these claims.

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Factors to be considered in determining whether undue experimentation is required are summarized in *Ex parte Forman*, 230 USPQ 546 (BPAI 1986). They include the nature of the invention, the state of the prior art, the relative skill of those in the art, the amount of direction or guidance disclosed in the specification, the presence or absence of working examples, the predictability or unpredictability of the art, the breadth of the claims, and the quantity of experimentation which would be required in order to practice the invention as claimed.

Claim 16 has been amended to delete the generic reference to treating autoimmune disease. Claim 16 has been further amended to recite that the terpolymers of the composition are present in a "therapeutically effective amount." The claims are drawn to a composition, not a method of treatment. While such a method would clearly convey an effective amount when an amount is used and a condition is affected by that amount. However, what constitutes a "therapeutically effective amount" when the terpolymer is merely present in a container admixed with a carrier? Effective for what? Irrespective of the amount of terpolymer present in the composition or the concentration of the terpolymer in the composition, any amount can be both a "therapeutically effective amount" and a "therapeutically ineffective amount" depending on the size of the subject being treated. A milliliter can comprise a "therapeutically effective amount" if at sufficiently high concentration while a liter can comprise a "therapeutically ineffective amount" if at sufficiently low concentration.

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 16, 19, 20 and 32-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 16 is ambiguous and unclear in the recitation of a "therapeutically effective amount." The claims are drawn to a composition, not a treatment method. Therefore the recitation of a "therapeutically effective amount" is unclear because the concentration of an ingredient can vary in a composition and the amount of a composition given to a subject is also variable.

Conclusion

3. No claim is allowed.

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4. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to F. Pierre VanderVegt whose telephone number is (571) 272-0852. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th 6:30-4:00 and Alternate Fridays 6:30-3:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christina Chan can be reached on (571) 272-0841. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

F. Pierre VanderVegt, Ph.D.
Patent Examiner
March 3, 2006



DAVID A. SAUNDERS
PRIMARY EXAMINER